

Monthly Newsletter: December 2011

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WELCOME!!

Hi, Everyone!!! Hope everyone had a FANTASTIC Thanksgiving break! Can you believe that we are done with this semester already? First of all, VHIO would really want to thank all of you for all your hard work and volunteering this semester. We hope the new members learned a lot in the Decal and will start volunteering with us next semester. Although this semester is coming to an end, there are still many upcoming events that require your help. For those of you who want to get more involved in VHIO, we will start accepting applications for officer positions this winterbreak. Feel free to talk to the officers if you are interested in their positions next year! Finally, we wish you all good luck studying for finals! Have a wonderful winter break too! :)

Officer Updates

At the Multicultural Health and Wellness Fair on November 19th, ~300-400 patients came. In addition to our 15 volunteers, there were countless other health interpreters (Burmese and Karenni) and groups passing out brochures and goodies such as the Asian Community Mental Health Services, the Hep B Project, Lifelong Medical Care, and so forth. The languages most used at this event included Burmese, Karenni/Karen, Khmer, and Vietnamese. VHIO members helped out with registration and interpreted for screenings (blood pressure, BMI, eyes), flu shot immunization, and at the HealthPAC workshop. Kristine, one of our Vietnamese volunteers, was also asked what Hepatitis B was and so, had the chance to apply Decal material she learned in a real-life situation!

- Kathy Doan

VHIO provided Cambodian and Tagalog language support to SF Hep B Free's table for the SF Indonesian Festival.

- Edna Cheung

Thank you to everyone who supported VHIO at our first fundraiser at Stuffed Inn!

- VHIO



Upcoming Events

December

Saturday December 3rd
All languages
Mt. Zion Hep B Clinic

Saturday December 3rd
All languages
SRO-CHIP Problem Gambling
Workshop

Saturday December 10th
All languages
Chinatown Public Health Center
Hep B Clinic

January

Saturday January 7th
All languages
Mt. Zion Hep B Clinic

Saturday January 14th
All languages
Chinatown Public Health Center
Hep B Clinic

Saturday January 21st
All languages
SRO-CHIP Mental Well-Being
Workshop

Seasons Greetings Everyone!

I get the pleasure of writing the spot for the Holiday Issue of the newsletter! I'm sure you're all revving up for finals, but I hope you got a chance to get stuffed over Thanksgiving and have some fun holiday plans ahead!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Vivian Chan and I just graduated from Berkeley this past May with dual degrees in Business Administration and Integrative Biology. I started volunteering with VHIO (known as SFHBC at the time) during my sophomore year.

At the time I was very interested in healthcare and VHIO presented the opportunity to gain exposure to clinical experience as well as a chance to interact directly with patients who needed our interpreter expertise. To be honest, I was pretty scared at first and wasn't sure at all when I went for the interview--"I can't say anything medical in Chinese!" but luckily the interviewers were very understanding. Now, having been on the other side of the interviewing table, I understand we are looking for people who are passionate about volunteering for our cause and have sufficient conversational ability to keep our patients comfortable. VHIO has taught me so much--including an extra boost with my Canto fluency ;-)--and I've met some of my best friends at Cal over volunteering in clinic.

Some of you may be wondering: What are you doing now? I actually chose the uncommon alumni route of deviating from direct patient care and am currently a technology consultant with Deloitte Consulting--a job which brings me jetsetting every week to Seattle. It's exciting to be in this new stage of my life, but as a result, I am unfortunately not volunteering with VHIO right now because of the crazy scheduling. I continue to carry a strong passion for healthcare and hope to break into the healthcare sector through other venues. Who knows, I may very well end up coming back to health provision someday!

I wish you all the best and urge you to keep giving great service to our patients, which I'm sure you're doing already under the leadership of (my babies) Yingchao and Edna!

If you guys have any questions about anything, feel free to shoot me an email at v2chan@gmail.com.

Cheers,

Vivian



GOOD LUCK ON
YOUR FINALS

